



## EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

JUNE 22, 1999

*Stauffer Chemical Company Site*

*Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida*

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) to provide notice of a clarification to the cleanup decision document for the Stauffer Chemical Company/Tarpon Springs **Superfund** Site. EPA signed the **Record of Decision (ROD)** in July 1998 selecting the remedy for Operable Unit #1 (OU1), which addresses the soils at the Stauffer facility. This ESD clarifies the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic. The modification does not fundamentally change the selected remedy. The remedy remains fully protective of human health and the environment.

EPA is issuing this ESD as a fact sheet in accordance with Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (**CERCLA**), as amended. CERCLA is known as the **Superfund** law, and the NCP contains the regulations setting forth how EPA will carry out its responsibilities under Superfund. Terms in **bold** are defined in a glossary on page 3.

This ESD will become part of the **Administrative Record** for the cleanup decision for the Stauffer Chemical Company Superfund Site. The record is available for review at the **Information Repository** located at:

*Tarpon Springs Public Library  
138 East Lemon Street  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
(727) 943-4922*

### Background

The Stauffer Chemical Company Tarpon Springs Superfund site (site) is located on Anclote Road in

Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. This former elemental phosphorus plant is located on Anclote Road near the Pinellas/Pasco County border, and lies along the Anclote River two miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico. The town of Tarpon Springs is located approximately 2 miles southeast of the site. The site comprises an area of approximately 130 acres and includes the former phosphate processing area, elemental phosphorous production facilities, and office/administrative buildings. While operating, the plant used a system of seventeen unlined waste ponds on the site. Land use in the surrounding area includes light industrial, commercial, and residential. There are undeveloped areas near the site. The site is generally flat with an average elevation of 10 feet above sea level.

EPA placed the site on the **National Priorities List (NPL)** in 1994. In February 1992, the Stauffer Management Company (SMC) voluntarily entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the EPA. Under the AOC, Stauffer completed a detailed study (Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study or RI/FS) in 1996, under EPA direction. This study evaluated the contamination at the site, determined the potential risks posed by the contaminations, and identified and evaluated methods for remediating the contamination. EPA selected a remedy to address the site soils in the July 1998 ROD.

### SCOPE OF ESD

The ROD calls for consolidation of contaminated soils and sediments at the site under operable unit (OU) number 1. This ESD clarifies the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic in soils at the site.

### Selected Remedy for OU1

The major components of the soil operable unit

include:

- ! Limited excavation of radiologically and chemically contaminated material/soil which exceed Residential Cleanup Standards.
- ! Consolidation of contaminated material/soils in the main pond area, slag area, and/or other areas on-site.
- ! Placement of institutional controls on the site to include deed restrictions, land use ordinances, physical barriers, and water supply well permitting restrictions.
- ! In-situ Solidification/Stabilization of pond material and contaminated soil below the water table in the consolidation areas.

### **Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)**

The July 1998 ROD identified arsenic as a contaminant of concern, but was not clear on the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic. The ROD referenced a “safe soil level” of 21.1 parts per million (ppm) for residential use, based upon non-carcinogenic effects. The ROD stated that the calculated concentration corresponding to the  $10^{-6}$

in soils is 0.46 ppm. The ROD noted that the 0.46 ppm cleanup number would likely be achieved through the remediation of the other contaminants of concern.

This ESD clarifies that the remedial cleanup goal for arsenic in soil is 21.1 ppm at the Stauffer Chemical Company site. The Agency’s decision is based on conclusions provided by the Expert Panel of Arsenic Carcinogenicity (Eastern Research Group, May 21-22, 1997), similar cleanup goals selected at a number of other Superfund sites nationally, EPA’s belief that the carcinogenic effects of arsenic in soils are negligible at this concentration, and concurrence from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on the protectiveness of the 21.1 ppm goal. Therefore EPA considers the 21.1 ppm cleanup goal selected to be protective of human health and the environment.

### **Statutory Determination**

The selected remedy as clarified by this ESD for the Stauffer Chemical Company **Superfund Site ROD** for OU1 remains protective of human health and the environment, complies with Federal and State requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action, and is cost-effective.



excess lifetime cancer (carcinogenic) risk for arsenic

## Glossary

**Administrative Record:** Documents providing the basis for EPA's selection of a cleanup remedy at a **Superfund** site, placed in the **Information Repository** near a site for public review.

**CERCLA or Superfund:** The federal law which establishes and authorizes EPA to respond to abandoned or unregulated releases of hazardous waste.

**Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel.

**Information Repository:** Documents located near a **Superfund** site for public review.

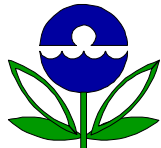
**National Priorities List (NPL):** EPA's list of priority hazardous

waste sites that are eligible to receive federal money for response under **Superfund**.

**PRP:** Potentially Responsible Party - a company or individual who owned or operated a hazardous waste site or has transported or disposed waste to the site.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** Document explaining EPA's rationale for selection of a cleanup remedy at a **Superfund** site.

**Superfund:** Common name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) established to address uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites.



## EPA CONTACTS

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*or*  
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*South Site Management Branch*  
*EPA - Region 4*  
*61 Forsyth Street, SW*  
*Atlanta, Georgia 30303*  
*1-800-435-9234*



### MAILING LIST ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

If you would like your name and address placed on the mailing list  
for the  
Stauffer Chemical Company Superfund Site, please complete this  
form and  
return to Carlean Wakefield, EPA, 61 Forsyth Street, SW,  
Atlanta, GA 30303.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Environmental Protection Agency	South Superfund Remedial Branch	Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SE Atlanta, Georgia, 30303
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\$300

Carlean Wakefield, Community Relations

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